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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Kenji Iwano

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RATNERPRESTIA

P.O. BOX 980

VALLEY FORGE, PA 19482

EXAMINER

ESTRADA, ANGEL R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2831

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

01/07/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/560,538	Applicant(s) IWANO ET AL.	
	Examiner Angel R. Estrada	Art Unit 2831	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 October 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5 and 7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/7/08</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The indicated allowability of claim 3-5 and 7 are withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to JP (58-60977). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement filed October 7, 2008 has been considered by the Examiner.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 3 and 4 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 3 lines 4 and 6-9 delete "standard", this limitation is vague and indefinite because standard can change in time.

Claim 4 lines 4, 6-9, delete "standard", this limitation is vague and indefinite because standard can change in time.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

Art Unit: 2831

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 3-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 58-60977 (hereinafter '977, cited in the IDS).

Regarding claim 3, '977 discloses an electronic equipment (see figure 1), comprising: a double length case (see figure 1) having an overall length substantially twice as long as a predetermined length in a predetermined direction (see figure 1), in which said double length case (see figure 1) includes a common case member (1) shorter in overall length in said predetermined direction than said length and available for a part of a length case, having in said predetermined direction an overall length identical to said standard length (see figure 1), and an additional case member longer in overall length in said predetermined direction than said length case (see figure 1) and disposed on a predetermined side of said common case member (1), said common case member (1) having a common side engaging portion held in fitting engagement with said additional case member (1), and said additional case member (see figure 1) having an additional side engaging portion held in fitting engagement with said common side engaging portion of said common case member (see figure 1); a front panel (20) disposed on the front side of said double length case (see figure 1); a connecting member (not shown, see figure 1) for fixedly connecting said common case member (1) and said additional case member to each other (see figure 1); a common side tightening member operable to tighten and fixedly connect said connecting member with said common case member (see figure 1); and an additional side tightening member operable to tighten and fixedly connect said connecting member with said additional

Art Unit: 2831

case member (see figure 1), said connecting member being disposed on one or the other side in a direction in which said common case member and said front panel are arranged (see figure 1).

Regarding claim 4, '977 discloses an electronic equipment (see figure 1), comprising: a double length case (see figure 1) having an overall length substantially twice as long as a predetermined length (see figure 1) in a predetermined direction, in which said double length case (see figure 1) includes a common case member (1) shorter in overall length in said predetermined direction than said length and available for a part of a length case (see figure 1), having in said predetermined direction an overall length identical to said length, and an additional case member (see figure 1) longer in overall length in said predetermined direction than said length case and disposed on a predetermined side of said common case member (see figure 1), said common case member having a common side engaging portion held in fitting engagement with said additional case member (see figure 1), and said additional case member having an additional side engaging portion held in fitting engagement with said common side engaging portion of said common case member (see figure 1); a common side electronic part housed in said common case member; an additional side electronic part housed in said additional case member to be independent from said additional case member (see figure 1); and a harness cable (see figure 3) having said common side electronic part and said additional side electronic part connected to each other (see figure 1).

Art Unit: 2831

Regarding claim 5, '977 discloses an electronic equipment (see figure 1), in which said additional case member (see figure 1) is formed with a passage hole (9) having said harness cable passed therethrough to connect said common side electronic part and said additional side electronic part (see figures 3-5).

Regarding claim 7, '977 discloses an electronic equipment (see figure 1), in which said double length case (see figure 1) includes a cover member (see figure 1) disposed on the opposite side of said additional case member as against said common case member, said additional case member (see figure 1) having for covering use a cover engaging portion held in fitting engagement with said cover member (see figure 1), and said cover member having a cover side engaging portion held in fitting engagement with said engaging portion of said additional case member, said cover side engaging portion and said common side engaging portion being engageable with each other (see figure 1).

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Angel R. Estrada at telephone number (571) 272-1973. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:30 -5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego Gutierrez can be reached on (571) 272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2831

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) OR 571-272-1000.

December 29, 2008

/Angel R. Estrada/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2831